

Committee on Ways and Means

Economic Statistics: Gulf Coast region, pre-hurricane Katrina

The area hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina covers more than 85 counties and parishes in Southern Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Home to 5.9 million people, more two-thirds of the population was located in 10 metropolitan statistical areas in the region. The region lags behind the overall economy in terms of per capita income (affected area: \$25,991; national average: \$31,472), poverty statistics (affected area: 18.5 percent live in poverty; national average: 12.7 percent), and the unemployment rate (affected area: 5.6 percent; national average: 4.9 percent).

Metropolitan statistical areas	Labor force	Unemployment rate (%)	Population	Personal income (\$ millions)	Per capita income (\$)
Baton Rouge, LA	361,100	6.5	722,646	\$19,423	\$26,921
Gulfport-Biloxi, MS	120,600	5.8	248,965	\$6,472	\$25,922
Hattiesburg, MS	63,500	5.8	128,631	\$3,028	\$23,598
Houma-Bayou Cane-Thibodaux, LA	97,100	5.1	197,388	\$4,986	\$25,238
Jackson, MS	266,000	5.7	510,060	\$14,355	\$28,132
Lafayette, LA	125,400	5.1	244,150	\$6,762	\$27,703
Lake Charles, LA	96,200	5.0	193,597	\$5,047	\$26,026
Mobile, AL	182,200	4.6	399,747	\$9,264	\$23,164
New Orleans-Metairie-Kenner, LA	642,300	5.6	1,317,541	\$39,595	\$30,092
Pascagoula, MS	72,200	6.4	154,335	\$3,754	\$24,336
Total, 10 MSAs	2,026,600	5.6%	4,117,060	\$112,686	\$27,371
Total, 87 counties/parishes	2,756,147	5.6%	5,873,842	\$153,056	\$25,991



